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# THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

## MISSIONS

### **Survey of Missionary Activities in India during 1915**

Among the larger missionary fields India has been most severely afflicted by war conditions. Accordingly the survey which the *International Review of Missions* for January, 1916, furnishes its readers is of peculiar interest to us. The loyalty of the people, notably of the educated classes, to the government has found widespread expression. And a resultant of this loyalty is already beginning to show itself in the assurances that after the war the people of India will be granted new liberties and privileges, and a larger place in the counsels of the empire. The survey, however, does not cover up the facts that there have been some outbreaks of a serious nature, and that wild rumors have occasionally found credence with the common people, and caused temporary excitement and restlessness. Disaster has overtaken the work of the German missions. On June 23 the secretary for India stated in the House of Commons that of German missionaries in India, including Protestant and Roman Catholic, 115 were interned under military control at Ahranadnagar, 70 were compulsorily residing in a specific place under civil control, and 443 were at liberty but on parole and subject to general civil supervision. A few weeks later the government of India carried into effect its policy to repatriate all German and Austrian subjects, except men of military age. The German mission suffered financial curtailment when the government withdrew all grants that had previously been made to philanthropic and educational work carried on by these missions. The work which German missionaries have thus been forced to relinquish has been transferred in part to the Swedish

church mission and the American Lutheran missions. But it must not be thought the German missions alone have met with disaster; the missionary activity has suffered from financial stringency and from the departure of missionaries, especially the medical missionaries, to serve with the military forces.

In spite of these unfavorable circumstances there has been a reasonable amount of work accomplished by the missionaries. The movement for federation of churches has been advanced. Negotiations that have been calculated to result in union have been conducted between the South India United Church and the Wesleyan mission and the Basel mission. The South India United Church and the Madras representative Council of Missions have been co-operating in plans for a vigorous and well-prepared evangelistic campaign. A survey of the entire Indian mission field has been initiated under the direction of Rev. W. H. Findlay. It is thought that this survey will render invaluable information, especially for those who share in missionary activities in the home land. In the new policy of the government to establish residential and teaching universities of new type at Patua, Decca, and Nagpur, provision is being made for the co-operation of missionary bodies. A band of scholars, both missionary and Indian, is engaged in the preparation of a series of books which it is thought will promote the religious life of the people. The translation of the Bible has been completed in Nepali. The Gospels have been published for the first time in Ho, Tinan, and Chin. Also there has been a record circulation of the Scriptures during the year. Among other things the National and

Provincial Missionary Councils, created by the continuation committee conferences in 1912-13, have had the matter of comity among missions under serious discussion.

**National Missionary Congress, Washington, D.C., April 26-30**

The men's National Missionary Congress to be held in Washington, D.C., April 26-30, under the direction of the Laymen's Missionary Movement, will be one of the most momentous religious gatherings since the World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh in 1910. It will be the climax to the series of great conventions of the national missionary campaign now being held in the leading cities of the United States.

All the important foreign and home mission agencies are making preparations to participate actively in the Congress. Missionary leaders regard the gathering as a potent event. The assemblage will face new world-conditions of opportunity and need and is expected to exert a profound influence on the missionary activities of the next ten years.

The arrangements for the Congress are being made by the Laymen's Missionary Movement. All the sessions will be held in the beautiful Memorial Continental Hall, Washington, opening Wednesday evening, April 26, and closing Sunday evening, April 30. The Congress will be a deliberative body, and the delegates, limited in number, have been allotted to the various Protestant religious denominations upon an equitable basis. Each denomination is selecting its own representatives, and delegates are registering from every part of the United States.

Among the outstanding leaders of Christian activity and thought who have accepted invitations to speak at the Congress are John R. Mott, Robert E. Speer, Dr. Shailer Mathews, Dr. W. D. MacKenzie, Bishop Francis J. McConnell, George Sherwood Eddy, Raymond Robins, Silas McBee, Dr.

John F. Goucher, Ex-Lieutenant-Gov. A. J. Wallace of California.

Application for membership in the Congress should be made at once to the missionary agencies of the religious denominations or to the Laymen's Missionary Movement, 1 Madison Avenue, New York. The registration fee is \$5.00 and should accompany the application. The Congress will be self-entertaining. Detailed information concerning hotels, rates, etc., will be sent to all registered delegates.

**Missions in China**

When the *International Review of Missions* opens before us the missionary work in China during the last year it makes very clear the disadvantages which have been occasioned by the existing political, national, and commercial ferment. These conditions have had their origin, in part, from the attitude and demand of Japan, and from the financial stringency due to the European war, but the sources of disruption and discord are not all to be traced to other nations, for we are given the unqualified statement that "corruption is widespread and constitutes the chief obstacle to China's progress." Moreover there has been a retrograde movement in two particular directions. First, the worship of Heaven at the high altar in Peking was restored by the President in December, 1914, and even though there have been explicit assurances that complete religious liberty will be maintained, there are indications that unless it is jealously guarded it is in danger of being lost. Secondly, the purpose of the government to suppress the production and use of opium has not been maintained, and in May an agreement was made whereby a guaranty was given the free right of entry, during the next two years, for opium still in store at Shanghai. In spite of the dark outlook which these conditions suggest, the opportunities of missionaries in China are significantly expressed in the

words of the China Continuation Committee, as "limited only by the vigor of the spiritual life and the preparedness of the working classes of the church."

During the last three months of 1914 Mr. Sherwood Eddy conducted a series of evangelistic meetings in principal cities of China. More than 10,600 men signed cards promising to study Christianity and to follow the truth when convinced by it. Nearly 8,000 have subsequently been enrolled in Bible classes. The evangelistic campaign in Fukien was a remarkable success and preparations are being made for similar campaigns in Kwangtung, Honan, and Manchuria.

The China Inland Mission celebrated its jubilee in May. More than any other agency it has been the means of opening the whole of China to the preaching of the gospel. Its foreign workers number 1,063, the salaried Chinese workers, 1,694, and unpaid Chinese helpers, 1,071. There are 754 organized churches connected with the mission and more than 34,000 communicant members. Steady progress is being made

in the consolidation and unification of individual societies. Especially is this work being pushed forward by the China Mission Council of the American Presbyterian Board, the English Bible Society in Shantung, and the American Baptist Missionary Union.

An event of far-reaching importance is the decision of the Rockefeller Foundation to devote large sums of money to the development of medical schools in China. The disposal of these funds will be made in co-operation with the missionary institutions and the first step will be to take over the College in Peking. It is also proposed to furnish missionary societies with the funds necessary to increase the staff of the hospitals in the vicinity of four educational centers and to relate these hospitals to the schools. A further proposal is to establish one or two tuberculosis hospitals. The China Medical Missionary Association already has 500 members.

The Bible Societies have distributed 6,211,000 copies of the Bible—a record which far surpasses any in the past.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### **A Church Journal of Religious Education**

Rev. W. L. DeVries, Ph.D., who has recently become editor of the department of religious education in the *Living Church*, announces that his church's need of a journal of religious education has been met. He says this need on the part of the Episcopal church has been created by the rapidly developing activities of the church's missions. He thinks it is desirable that his church should have a journal of its own to treat with her own special conditions, principles, and ideals in relation to the new activities of religious work in general. The need has been supplied earlier than he had dared hope, and through a channel quite unexpected. The new editor of the *Ameri-*

*can Sunday School Magazine*, Dr. Stewart U. Mitman, has broadened the magazine to include the whole field of religious education. The following titles and authors show that the broader questions are being treated by men of expert knowledge: "The Aims of the General Board of Education," By Rev. R. P. Kreidler; "Graded Sunday Schools," by Rev. E. R. Carter; "The Aims of the Modern Sunday School," by Rev. C. S. Lewis; "Transmutation of the Lesson into Life," by Rev. W. W. Deatrick.

### **Public School and Religious Education**

The relation of public schools to religious education was discussed at a joint meeting of the secretaries of the church educational